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AUG 21 1963

CURRENT SERIAL RECORDS

FOOD PREVIEW

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A summary of the food outlook especially
designed to give maximum advance information
to food editors to help them plan food features.

U.S. Department of Agriculture
Agricultural Marketing Service

April 29, 1963
F P - 70

MEAT

Beef.....Supplies of fed beef in the second quarter of the year are expected to exceed a year earlier by almost 10 percent, due to larger inventories of cattle and calves on feed and heavier average dressed weight. Retail prices which trended downward in February and March probably will continue to adjust lower during the second quarter. If retail prices continue to decline, and if inventories of fed cattle are marketed orderly, a further serious price drop may be averted in the May and June period.

Pork.....Slaughter hog supplies probably will decline seasonally but will continue above a year earlier through May, with prices tending to remain at low levels. Prices probably will rise seasonally to an August peak, then move lower during the late summer and fall, as the 1963 spring pig crop goes to slaughter. Through the second half of the year prices are expected to remain below a year earlier.

Lambs and

Sheep.....So far this year slaughter of sheep and lamb has averaged considerably below a year earlier, but prices have changed little since the year began. While some upward price movement is expected as slaughter supplies decrease seasonally this spring, the margin over last year's prices probably will narrow.

Broiler-

Fryers.....Through May the slaughter of broilers and fryers is expected to continue a little lower than in 1962. However, egg settings for broiler chick production in 22 States in the three weeks ended April 13 were up 5 percent from a year earlier.

Turkeys....Federally inspected turkey slaughter in the 5 weeks ended April 3 were 4 percent smaller than a year ago. Cold storage holdings on April 1 totaled 153 million pounds, against year-earlier stocks of 191 million. Average for that date is 122 million pounds.

Eggs.....Production probably will not be significantly higher than last year until the fourth quarter of 1963. On April 1, output was equal to a year ago, reflecting a nearly offsetting decline in layers on farms and a rise in egg production per layer.

DAIRY.....Supplies of milk and dairy products continue more than ample and prices are expected to run about the same as a year ago. For March, milk production, while slightly below the previous month, was 1.5 percent above the 1957-61 average for that month. Milk output usually reaches a peak in May and June, with the industry holding its annual Dairy Month promotion in June.

VEGETABLES:

Fresh.....Production of early spring vegetables is expected to run slightly below both last year and average. Smaller crops are forecast for asparagus,

cabbage, lettuce and tomatoes. The spring celery crop, though, will be a tenth larger than last year, and harvesting is now active in Florida and California. Larger production of early spring sweet corn and onions also is indicated.

Processed.....Prospective acreages of 9 principal vegetable crops for processing are 7 percent below last year and 3 percent under average.

Canned.....As the close of the 1962-63 marketing season approaches, supplies are ample. Some are record-large for this time of year. In heaviest supply are corn, sauerkraut, tomatoes and tomato products.

Potatoes.....Early spring production is expected to be 27 percent greater than last year and 7 percent above average. Most of the early spring crop, grown in Florida, is in generally good condition. For late spring harvest, acreage is 5 percent larger than last year but 17 percent below average.

Frozen

Vegetables....On April 1 holdings totaled a record for that date of 1 billion, 55 million pounds, 7 percent above a year earlier and a sharp 56 percent greater than average.

FRUIT:

Citrus.....April 1 estimates indicate a citrus crop 2 percent below month earlier reports, and 26 percent smaller than last year. The orange crop of 103 million boxes is down 2-1/2 million from month earlier estimates and only three-fourths the size of the 1961-62 crop. Grapefruit production declined 3 percent from month earlier forecasts, and the 34-1/2 million box crop will be a fifth below last season. Lemons, placed at 11-1/2 million boxes, while unchanged from March 1 prospects, are down 31 percent from the size of the previous crop.

Frozen

orange juice..Mainly because of increased carryover last fall and rapid processing of the 1962-63 crop, April 1 holdings of 47 million gallons were 8 million gallons greater than a year earlier. But the total pack may be less than half the record 1961-62 output.

Straw-

berries.....Production of early spring strawberries is estimated at 29 percent smaller than last year. Harvesting is now underway in Louisiana, and beginning in California.

Peach

Prospects.....Despite unusually low temperatures in many areas, prospects on April 1 in 9 southern States were better than a year ago. In general, condition is reported at 81 percent--5 points above a year earlier but 2 points below the 1957-61 average. Georgia, North and South Carolina expect another large crop, Arkansas' crop appears considerably above last year, but cold weather has reduced the outlook in Alabama. West of the Mississippi River, though, a larger crop is expected, compared with last year's small production.

Frozen

Fruits.....Holdings on April 1 stood at 372 million pounds, 4 percent below a year earlier, but 7 percent above average.

Canned.....As end of 1962-63 marketing season nears, supplies are ample, though stocks of some fruits are below the large volume a year earlier.

The Plentiful Foods Program

The Agricultural Marketing Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, through its Plentiful Foods Program, is cooperating in these food campaigns:

JUNE DAIRY MONTH.....June 1 - 30 NATIONAL BARBECUE MONTH.....June 1 - 30

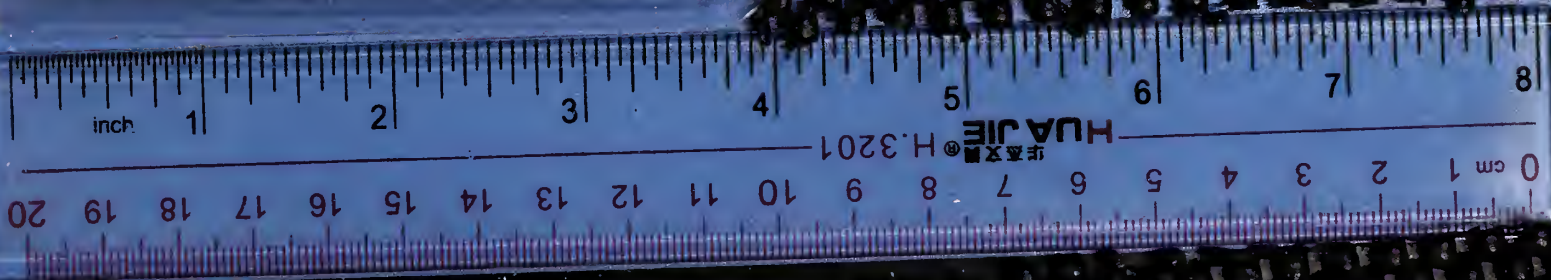
The following foods will be in plentiful supply in June:

Milk and Dairy Products, Broiler-Fryers, Eggs, Early Summer Vegetables, and Beef.

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Food pre-vue

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